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## An observational note on anomalous mating behaviour of *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* (Schneider, 1799) at human habitation, Faridpur, Bangladesh

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### ABSTRACT

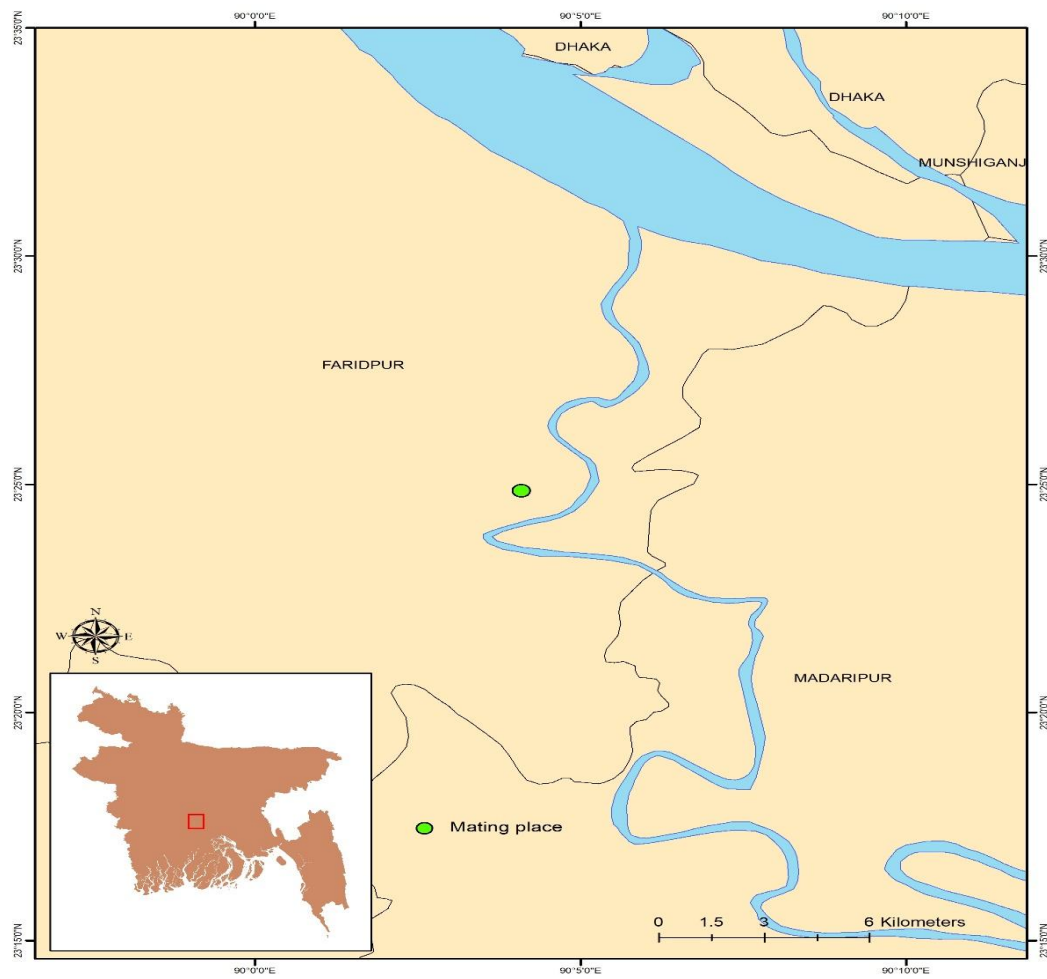
*Duttaphrynus melanostictus* is commonly found in near ponds, human habitations, cultivated fields, mixed-evergreen and deciduous forests of plains, hills and coastal areas in Bangladesh. They are active at night and during day they hide under rocks. This article is the first observation on unusual mating behaviour of *D. melanostictus* at a human habitat from Bangladesh, based on a field observations. This observation exhibits that *D. melanostictus* has an unusual mating behaviour and to comprehend their unusual mating behaviour, more studies are required.

**Key words:** *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*, unusual mating behaviour, first observation, Bangladesh.

The Common Toad *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* is the commonest amphibian and found throughout Bangladesh from mainland to coastal areas, offshore islands and hill country as well as in all terrestrial forest ecosystems (Khan 2015).

On 7th November 2018, a field visit was carried out to conduct an amphibian's survey at Duair Village (23°24'48.0"N, 90°04'14.2"E), Bhanga Upazila under Faridpur District, Bangladesh (Fig. 1). A Common Toad *D. melanostictus* male was chasing to a female for mating. The key observations were made by the naked eye, 3 m away from the toads to experience the unusual mating behaviour and for taking

photographs by mobile phone to document the key observation. In between 21:23 hr to 21:47 hr, while noting observation no disturbances were made. Male *D. melanostictus* jumped towards on dorsal side of the female a first attempt and stayed about few seconds for holding with front finger limbs and then male was rolled with female on ground and at a certain moment male moved away from the dorsal side of the body to ventral side of the female. After few seconds male tried for copulating during this time female freely cooperated with male action on the same position and female did not tried to escape from the male.



**Fig. 1.** Mating place of *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*



**Fig. 2.** Unusual mating behaviour of *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*

During this time dorsal side of female was totally grounded and hind limbs freely disposed, clear actions given in the Fig. 2 and male stayed on the female about 24 minutes. Smaller males are typically rejected by females by larger males during violent fights over females (Arak 1988; Davies and Halliday 1979; Lamb 1984). In general male anurans are while courtship and mating time energy is highly exhibits due to predation risk (McCauley et al. 2000). An unusual type of mislead communication between two amphibian species belonging to two different families of *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* and *Polypedates cruciger* in Sri Lanka it could be a mistaken communication of both species (Edirisinghe and Amarasinghe 2009). So, further studies are needed on matting patterns of *D. melanostictus* to comprehend their natural history.

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